

Monthly Newsletter

March – April 2017

Gravitazz Institute for Disaster Reduction and Emergency Management

EDITORIAL



Dear friends and colleagues,

Gravitazz is pleased to reintroduce its monthly newsletter in a revised, shorter, format, aimed at updating you on its activities.

During the first quarter of 2017, we have successfully launched our training institute, offering both short courses as well as diploma and certificate programmes to our ever-growing base of customers, and hosted a **short course on disaster risk management in South Africa in April**. We are now exploring new opportunities and partnerships with individuals and organisations in the continent and beyond. Having attended both an **African Risk Capacity (ARC) technical committee meeting** and a **technical expert workshop on Weather Risk Insurance for the Agricultural Sector**, organized by the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII) and GIZ during the month of March, Gravitazz has confirmed its commitment to providing technical assistance in the field of disaster risk reduction.

“**DIMA Connect**”, our DRR networking platform, keeps growing and serving its purpose, currently bringing together over 250 members from across the continent. We are also currently welcoming registrations and abstracts in preparation for our **international conference on the economic costs of disasters** to be held in October 2017.

We thank you for your continued support and encourage you to get in touch! Look out for our **quarterly academic publication, “African Perspectives on Disaster Risk Reduction”**, which will be coming out in May!

Sincerely,

Millan Atam,
Managing Director,
Gravitazz



IN OUR NEWSLETTER THIS MONTH

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DRR NEWS IN AFRICA

SUMMARY OF THE ONGOING SITUATION

20 million people across Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen face starvation and famine as a result of prolonged drought, exacerbated by continuing conflicts and pertaining to the worst humanitarian crisis since 1945 (UN).

In Somalia, approximately 6.2 million people are projected to experience acute food insecurity through at least June 2017, a situation aggravated by outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and cholera, which have claimed some 500 lives as in April 2017 (RT Foundation). In South Sudan, the number of people estimated in need of humanitarian assistance has increased to almost 5 million, out of which 100,000 are facing famine conditions with the threat that aid agencies will pull out from the country given growing insecurity against aid workers (UNOCHA).

The situation has also been worsening in the other countries of the Horn of Africa, where in Kenya and Ethiopia only, more than 8 million people have been experiencing acute food insecurity, triggered by drought and resulting in clashes over resources, which also prompted a new wave of migration from the conflict-affected areas to the neighbouring countries. The crisis has struck the DRC's Kasai Region, where fighting intensified between the government and Kamuina Nsapu rebels with reports of serious human rights violations forcing over 11,000 refugees to seek safety in north-eastern Angola, a number likely to increase unless the conflict eases.

The situation in the Sahel Region remains deplorable with about 30 million people expected to face food insecurity (UNOCHA) and with reports alleging that aid agencies in Nigeria will run out of money by June 2017 unless additional funds are received. The situation in the country has been recently worsened by the outbreak of Meningitis disease, which to this date killed more than 800 people.

While Southern Africa is still recovering from the El-Nino phenomenon, a heavy seasonal rainfall and a tropical Cyclone Dineo brought floods to the region resulting in 44 deaths in Mozambique and 11 in Angola. Food security is at stake in the region as the outbreak of the fall armyworm damaging crops has been reported in the region for the first time. The situation in Madagascar remains appalling as the tropical Cyclone Enawo hit the country, affecting 430,000 people with at least 50 killed, 183 wounded and over 110,000 displaced (UNOCHA).



- **January 2017** – A measles outbreak in Guinea saw 3468 cases confirmed and 14 deaths reported.
- **January 2017** – Heavy seasonal rains in central and southern Mozambique resulted in 44 deaths and 79,000 people affected.
- **15 February 2017** - Cyclone Dineo struck Mozambique affecting over 550,000 and killing 7.
- **20 February 2017** – Famine declared in parts of Unity State in the northern-central South Sudan with 100,000 facing starvation and a further 1 million on the brink of famine.
- **08 March 2017** – Tropical Cyclone Enawo stroke Madagascar affecting about 430,000, killing at least 50, injuring 183 and displacing over 110,000.
- **11 March 2017** - A landslide at a rubbish landfill site in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, killed at least 115 people.
- **15 March 2017** - The Government of Somalia launched an oral cholera vaccination campaign with the support of WHO, targeting over 450 000 people.
- **17 March 2017** - EU scaled up its response to famine and drought-affected countries in the Horn of Africa with an additional €165 million.
- **19 March 2017** – At least 10 people killed in a gun battle between two pastoralist communities competing for grazing in the Northern Kenya.
- **22 March 2017** - Prolonged drought in Somaliland has killed between 65-80% of the region's livestock.
- **25 March 2017** – Six aid workers killed in the ambush by unknown assailants while travelling from Juba to Pibor in South Sudan. At least 12 aid workers have been killed in South Sudan in 2017.
- **29 March 2017** – A meningitis epidemic was declared by the Government of Niger in three health centres of the Niamey II health district.
- **13 April 2017** – At least 470 deaths and 25,000 cases of cholera were reported in Somalia, a number likely to double during the summer according to WHO.
- **24 April 2017** - Ghana, Kenya and Malawi to pilot the world's first malaria vaccine from 2018, offering it for babies and children in high-risk areas as part of real-life trials.

PAST MONTH'S ACTIVITIES

6 – 9 March 2017, Abidjan, Ivory Coast African Risk Capacity (ARC) Technical Review Committee Workshop

1 In March 2017, Gravitazz Institute's Managing Director Mr. Millan Atam co-chaired the ARC Technical Review Committee (TRC) held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The African Risk Capacity (ARC) is an African-owned, index-based weather risk insurance pool and early response mechanism that brings together the concepts of insurance and contingency planning.

The role of the TRC is to provide independent, external advice to countries and the ARC team on the quality and feasibility of Country Operational Plans. The latter serve as a type of preparedness document that describes how an insurance payout will be used in the event of a drought. The purpose of the TRC workshop was therefore to discuss the Operational Plans of countries applying for ARC insurance in the 2017/2018 season and agree on which plans to recommend to the ARC Board for approval.



From the left: Ms Vilma Hossini, Ms Kehinde Balogun and Mr Millan Atam at the workshop in Berlin

23 March 2017 – Berlin, Germany Consultative Workshop on the "Development of the Toolbox for Extreme Weather Risk Transfer for the Agriculture Sector"

3 The workshop, attended by Gravitazz Institute's Managing Director, Mr. Millan Atam, was part of the Munich Climate Insurance Initiative and GIZ joint project "Advancing Climate Risk Insurance plus (ACRI+)" for promoting integrated climate risk management and transfer. The main purpose of developing the toolbox for extreme weather risk transfer is to better equip governments and other stakeholders in managing climate risks with the help of insurance.

The goal of the workshop was to consult international experts on a toolbox to discuss complexities and opportunities to integrate insurance approaches within the disaster management cycle and its different phases. The organizers also sought to gain knowledge about activities at each phase of the disaster management cycle and identify the benefits and limitations of insurance as a risk management approach in developing countries.

3 During the event, Mr. Millan Atam also attended a high-level panel discussion "The Silver Lining of Natural Disasters: Can we turn floods, droughts and typhoons into an opportunity with climate risk insurance?"



03 – 07 April 2017, Midrand, South Africa International Training on Disaster Risk Management

2 As part of its capacity building efforts, between the 3rd and 7th April 2017, Gravitazz facilitated a five-day international training on Disaster Risk Management, which comprised of general courses related to disaster risk management as well as more technical modules covering subjects related to GIS, information management or climate change and water resource management.

The training was attended by prominent professionals coming from Malawi and Eritrea and representing, both the government and the UN. The Gravitazz Institute brought to the table facilitators with years of expertise in the fields of disaster risk management, GIS and climate change on the African continent, whose experience and knowledge allowed for extensive discussions.



GETTING READY FOR

The Africa Conference on Economic Costs of Disasters: The Role of the Private Sector in Disaster Risk Reduction

23 – 25 October 2017!
Johannesburg, SA

4

In the last months, Gravitazz Continental Initiative (GCI) has been busy planning the biggest must-attend DRR event in Africa. As part of efforts to make it a success, Gravitazz has thoroughly selected distinguished professionals in the field, who form the **Conference Steering Committee** and has brought to the table important partners such as the **Gauteng Province Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Provincial Disaster Management Centre** and has been endorsed by Malawi, Nigeria and Swaziland. The **call for abstracts** has been announced with a **deadline on the 26th May 2017**. The Conference’s website has been finalized and is ready to visit at www.gravitazzacecd.com. We are also arranging a face-to-face meeting with members of the Steering Committee expected to be held in the early June 2017 in South Africa.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

DO NOT MISS OUR 2017 COURSES

REGISTRATION FOR MAY COURSES IS OPEN!

<http://gravitazzinstitute.com/registration-for-may-courses/>

| DATES | COURSE TITLE | LOCATION | LANGUAGE |
|------------|--|------------------------------|----------------|
| 15-17 May | Atelier international sur la mise en œuvre du Cadre de Sendai sur la Réduction des Risques de Catastrophes en Afrique : Se préparer pour la plateforme globale de 2017 | Dakar, Senegal | <i>FRENCH</i> |
| 15-17 May | International Workshop on the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa : Preparing for the 2017 Global Platform | Johannesburg, SA | <i>ENGLISH</i> |
| 22-26 May | Special Mixed Course on Disaster Risk Management | Johannesburg, SA | <i>ENGLISH</i> |
| 5-7 June | Information Management for Decision-Making in Disasters and Humanitarian Emergencies | Accra, Ghana (TBD) | <i>ENGLISH</i> |
| 12-14 June | Strategic Disaster Risk Planning and Management | Johannesburg, SA (TBD) | <i>ENGLISH</i> |
| 19-21 June | International Workshop on the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa : Preparing for the 2017 Global Platform | Kampala, Uganda (TBD) | <i>ENGLISH</i> |
| 26-28 June | Changement Climatique et Gestion des Ressources Hydrauliques dans les Zones Sujettes aux Sécheresses (in French) | Dakar, Sénégal (TBD) | <i>FRENCH</i> |
| 3-5 July | DRR Information Systems: Managing Media Relations, Public Awareness and Communications for Emergency Preparedness and Response | Accra, Ghana (TBD) | <i>ENGLISH</i> |
| 10-12 July | Meteorological and Hydrological Forecasting for Informed Decision-Making | Johannesburg, SA (TBD) | <i>ENGLISH</i> |
| 17-19 July | Atelier international sur la mise en œuvre du Cadre de Sendai sur la Réduction des Risques de Catastrophes en Afrique | Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (TBD) | <i>FRENCH</i> |
| 24-26 July | Planification et Mise en Œuvre Stratégique et Financière de la Réduction des Risques de Catastrophes en période d'Urgence Humanitaire (in French) | Dakar, Sénégal (TBD) | <i>FRENCH</i> |

A MUST-ATTEND CONFERENCE ON DRR IN AFRICA!

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS OPEN UNTIL 26 MAY 2017!

Gravitazz invites interested professionals such as academics, higher education students, practitioners and decision-makers across the African continent and beyond to submit papers on topics of their choice that consider **how best to involve the private sector in DRR!**

Do not miss the opportunity to speak at the biggest DRR event in Africa and send us your abstract before the deadline: 26th May 2017.

For more information:
<http://gravitazzacecd.com/>

Are you keen to learn more about DRR?
Do you want to read and contemplate high-quality academic papers on DRR developments?

Stay tuned!

Our Quarterly Publication is coming soon!

CONTACT US

**We are constantly looking to enrich our pool of
Partner Consultants!**

**If you are a DRR Expert and would like to be placed on our
roster, kindly send your CV to
info@gravitazzcontinental.com!**

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**Disaster Management (DIMA) Connect Whatsapp Group: *Contact us to request to be
added to the group***



**Gravitazz
Institute**

For disaster reduction and emergency management

