DIMA CONNECT

DISASTER MANAGEMENT CONNECT

Disaster Risk Intelligence. From Africa.

ISSUE 02 24 AUGUST 2026 AFRICA

THIS WEEK'S SIGNAL

The forecast is getting clearer. The institutional response must now catch up.

Africa's disaster-risk challenge is moving into a decisive phase. The Greater Horn now has a strong seasonal signal for a wetter-than-normal October-December season, while Southern Africa opens SARCOF-33 this week with an explicit focus on turning seasonal prediction into early action.

The important question is no longer whether climate information exists. It is whether institutions can convert lead time into decisions: contingency plans activated, drainage cleared, reservoirs managed, vulnerable settlements prepared, health systems readied, livestock protected, supplies pre-positioned and finance released before impact.

At the same time, the Ebola Bundibugyo outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo shows what happens when hazards interact with insecurity, population movement, fragile services and cross-border systems. Risks do not respect the administrative silos through which institutions are often organised.

> **A forecast is only valuable when it changes what somebody does before the loss occurs.**

This week DIMA asks a sharper question: when risk is visible early, are our institutions authorised, financed and organised to act before risks collide?

THE DIMA LENS / FORECAST TO ACTION

The lead time is real. What will Africa do with it?

GREATER HORN: ICPAC's 18 August outlook indicates wetter-than-normal conditions across much of the region for October-December 2026. WMO reports a 90% chance of enhanced rainfall over southern Ethiopia, central-to-southern Somalia and north-eastern Kenya. Parts of Somalia, central Kenya, the Lake Victoria Basin, Burundi, western Rwanda and western Tanzania have a high chance of seasonal totals exceeding 400 mm.

This can be good news for pasture, water availability and agriculture. But excessive rainfall also raises the probability of floods, flash floods, landslides, crop losses, infrastructure damage and water- and vector-borne disease. The same rainfall can therefore be both resource and hazard.

The forecast gives governments and partners something disaster managers repeatedly ask for: lead time. The governance test is what happens during that lead time.

1	RISK KNOWLEDGE	What could happen?
2	FORECAST	Where, when and with what confidence?
3	TRIGGER	What threshold changes the operating posture?
4	AUTHORITY + FINANCE	Who can act, and what money can move?
5	EARLY ACTION	What changes on the ground before impact?

The missing link is often not another forecast. It is a pre-agreed institutional mechanism that says: if X happens, Y institution does Z, using these resources, by this time.

DIMA PRACTITIONER QUESTIONS

- Which thresholds automatically activate preparedness measures?
- Can local authorities spend before an emergency declaration?
- Are sector plans linked to the same forecast and triggers?
- Who verifies that early action actually happened?
- Are communities participants in the decision chain, or merely recipients of warnings?

RISK AHEAD / SOUTHERN AFRICA

SARCOF-33: from seasonal prediction to early action

25-28 AUGUST | SWAKOPMUND, NAMIBIA

SADC's 33rd Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum opens on Tuesday under the theme From Climate Observation to Seasonal Prediction: Informing Early Action for the Upcoming Season. It brings climate specialists together with water, energy, agriculture, health and disaster-risk actors to develop and interpret the regional seasonal outlook and translate it into preparedness and planning.

DIMA will watch for more than rainfall probabilities: sector triggers, anticipatory-action implications, country-level interpretation and evidence that forecast information is entering operational decisions.

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE / SADC

The summit has spoken. Implementation is the story now.

The 46th SADC Summit met in Durban on 17 August and South Africa assumed the SADC chair. Regional priorities include climate-resilient food systems, infrastructure, water and energy security. For disaster-risk practitioners, the practical test is whether regional commitments translate into stronger national capability, financing and cross-border coordination.

DIMA WATCH

SARCOF: What concrete early-action recommendations accompany the seasonal outlook?
SADC: Which summit commitments acquire budgets, owners and timelines?
Greater Horn: Which countries move from the GHACOF outlook into funded preparedness before October?

COMPOUND RISK / DRC

Ebola is showing why risks cannot be managed in silos

WHO reported 5,208 confirmed Bundibugyo virus disease cases and more than 2,476 deaths in DRC as of 18 August. The outbreak had reached 56 health zones in six provinces. Insecurity, population mobility, constrained services and cross-border movement complicate response.

The Government, supported by WHO and partners, has launched the multisectoral Fleuve Congo Sans Ebola initiative to reduce spread along the Congo River corridor. The governance lesson is larger than the epidemic: when health, mobility, trade, security and humanitarian systems intersect, single-sector response becomes inadequate.

THE SYSTEM SHIFT

From hazard management to compound-risk governance

Disaster institutions were often designed around identifiable events: a flood, drought, epidemic, storm or conflict-related emergency. Increasingly, practitioners face systems in which one shock changes exposure to another.

Drought can weaken food security before floods arrive. Conflict can damage health systems before an epidemic spreads. Displacement can increase exposure while reducing access to services. Infrastructure failure can turn a hazard into a cascading economic shock.

This does not mean every crisis should be labelled a 'polycrisis'. The concepts matter: compound risks involve multiple drivers or hazards interacting; cascading impacts occur when failure in one system triggers consequences in others; a wider systemic crisis emerges when disruption propagates across interconnected sectors and institutions.

> **The institutional implication is uncomfortable: if risks interact horizontally while government authority and budgets remain vertical, coordination itself becomes a source of vulnerability.**

WHAT CHANGES?

- Multi-hazard assessments must connect to sector plans.
- Trigger systems should anticipate secondary and cascading impacts.
- Emergency financing needs rules for action before declaration.
- Cross-border risks require interoperable surveillance and information.
- Recovery planning should reduce the next risk rather than reconstruct the previous vulnerability.

ONE QUESTION TO TAKE AWAY

Are our institutions designed around the hazards we used to manage - or the interacting risks we now face?

DIMA OPPORTUNITIES / LIVE & VERIFIED

Work, tenders and professional openings

WFP | South Sudan Assessment of inclusive financial services, climate risk insurance and community-based savings/lending systems	Firm / service provider EOI Deadline: 8 Sep 2026 OFFICIAL LINK
UNDP | South Sudan Formulate the South Sudan Nationally Determined Contribution	Consultancy firm / RFP Deadline: 31 Aug 2026 OFFICIAL LINK
UNDP | Guinea-Bissau National Climate and Environmental Governance, Commitments and Institutional Mapping Framework	Individual consultant Deadline: 31 Aug 2026 OFFICIAL LINK
UNDP | Guinea-Bissau Seven Sector-Specific Climate Change Adaptation Mainstreaming Toolkits	Firm / RFP Deadline: 31 Aug 2026 OFFICIAL LINK
WMO | Nile Basin 30 hydrological monitoring stations for flood and drought early warning	Firm / ITB Deadline: 1 Sep 2026 OFFICIAL LINK
IFAD | Madagascar Rainwater harvesting systems for 400 vulnerable households	Service provider / RFP Deadline: 4 Sep 2026 OFFICIAL LINK
FAO | Benin Feasibility, design and ESIA studies for climate-resilient water infrastructure	Firm / ITB Deadline: 7 Sep 2026 OFFICIAL LINK

ON THE DIMA RADAR

Dates and systems worth watching

25-28 AUG	SARCOF-33 Swakopmund, Namibia Southern Africa seasonal outlook; early-action implications.
2-4 SEP	Africa Early Warnings Forum Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Multi-hazard early warning, financing, last-mile systems and implementation.
3 SEP	WMO El Nino Update Global Next authoritative global update on the evolving El Nino event.
28-30 OCT	Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action Mombasa, Kenya Institutionalising and financing anticipatory action.

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