

AFTER MAPUTO: WHO WILL DELIVER AFRICA'S DISASTER RESILIENCE?

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From continental commitments to accountable institutions, risk-informed investment and local action.



Cover illustration: AI-generated editorial concept, not documentary imagery. For a genuine photograph of the 13–15 October Maputo conference, see the UNDP Africa photo credited on its official 15 October report ([linked below](#)).

DIMA LENS | The delivery test after Maputo

African ministers and heads of delegation adopted the Maputo Ministerial Communiqué on 15 October 2026. The agenda is now one of delivery: turning risk information into enforceable development decisions, turning forecasts into financed action and turning investment proposals into measurable protection.

UNDP's conference account cites 719 reported disasters across Africa in 2023–2024, against 612 in 2021–2022, with more than 65,000 reported deaths and approximately US\$9.8 billion in direct economic losses. These are reported figures and should not be confused with a complete census of all losses.

Risk reduction must become a test of public investment, not merely a function of emergency services. A national disaster management authority may coordinate response yet lack authority over the land-use, infrastructure and budget decisions that create new exposure. Governments need

legal mandates, budget triggers and accountability extending from finance ministries to municipalities.

Four practical tests

- Who can compel risk screening before major public investment?
- Who releases pre-arranged funds when forecast thresholds are reached?
- Which local institutions can demonstrate tested readiness?
- What independent evidence shows fewer losses, less exposure or stronger essential services?

REAL MAPUTO PHOTOGRAPH | UNDP Africa (15 October 2026). The official UNDP report contains a conference podium photograph credited "Photo: UNDP Africa". See the linked source. Reproduction permission has not been established, so the photograph is not embedded in this release draft.

UNDP | Maputo Ministerial Communiqué announcement (15 October) <https://www.undp.org/africa/press-releases/african-leaders-adopt-maputo-communication-advance-disaster-prevention-and-resilience-investment>

AFRICA DRR WATCH | Regional signals and decisions

SOUTHERN AFRICA — Maputo put prevention investment and cross-border resilience on the agenda. The SADC INFORM Subnational Risk Index provides an example of risk information whose value must ultimately be judged by its use in planning and investment.

EAST AFRICA AND HORN — ICPAC's October–December outlook points to increased likelihood of wetter-than-normal conditions in parts of the Greater Horn. This is a seasonal probability, not evidence of observed floods. National warnings and district-level action plans remain essential.

WEST AFRICA AND SAHEL — The continuing challenge is to integrate water governance, flood preparedness and dry-spell planning across shared basins. ECOWAS/CILSS/AGRHYMET risk information should inform agriculture, water, infrastructure and social protection together.

CENTRAL AFRICA — The ECCAS-linked African Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action System provides an institutional context for assessing whether situation-room information reaches national and local decision-makers.

NORTH AFRICA — Urban flood exposure, heat and critical infrastructure resilience remain priority governance questions. No separate new October event is asserted without verification.

INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS — Small island economies face concentrated port, water, transport and power-system exposure. SWIOCOF and national weather services are priority sources; no unverified island-state event is presented as new.

The institutional watch

AU/AMHEWAS/ARC; SADC/SARCOF; IGAD/ICPAC; ECOWAS/CILSS/AGRHYMET; ECCAS/PRESAC; EAC; ACMAD; Indian Ocean Commission/SWIOCOF. Monitoring these institutions does not imply each announced a new initiative this week.

WMO | Greater Horn seasonal outlook <https://wmo.int/media/news/el-nino-impacts-greater-horn-africa>

UNDRR | AMHEWAS <https://www.undrr.org/about-undrr/where-we-work/regional-office-africa/amhewas>

RISK FINANCE WATCH | A proposal is not a payout

At Maputo, regional resilience investment concepts included the SADC Cyclone Belt Resilience Investment Programme and the Benguela Current Region Drought Resilience Investment Portfolio. UNDP describes these as proposals under development, not approved and disbursed programmes.

DIMA's accountability chain: RISK → STRATEGY → FUNDED COVERAGE → TRIGGER → RELEASE → IMPLEMENTATION → PEOPLE REACHED → LEARNING. Risk pooling and insurance can provide liquidity, but neither substitutes for risk-informed land use, infrastructure maintenance or prevention investment.

CLIMATE AND REGIONAL FORECAST WATCH

WMO's 8 October update reports a strengthening El Niño with implications for October–December rainfall and temperature patterns. African impacts vary sharply by region and season. Governments should combine seasonal outlooks with national bulletins and pre-agreed action thresholds.

WMO | Seasonal update (8 October 2026) <https://wmo.int/news/media-centre/sea-surface-temperatures-reflect-strengthening-el-nino>

GLOBAL DRR WATCH | Lessons from early warning

The transferable lesson is institutional rather than technological: warnings must specify an action, a responsible authority, a finance source and a last-mile delivery channel. A technically accurate forecast that cannot activate protection is not yet a functioning early-action system.

PRACTITIONER QUESTIONS | Who is responsible for action?

- Can the DRM authority influence finance, planning and infrastructure decisions before risk is created?
- Can a community prove preparedness through drills, equipment and accessible alerts, rather than attendance registers alone?
- Are climate forecasts tied to explicit action thresholds and release of money?

EVENTS & LEARNING

DMISA DRR Conference | 21–22 October 2026 | Centurion, South Africa. Scheduled after this edition's cut-off. DIMA will consider verified outcomes in Issue 11; no conclusions are attributed to the conference in this issue.

INDIA | ITEC-funded professional development — India's ITEC programme supports training for eligible nominees from partner countries. Funding can include tuition, return airfare, accommodation and living allowance; applications depend on the specific course, country and nomination arrangements. Explore the official current course calendar:

<https://www.itecgoi.in/upcomingcourse>

INDIA | National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) — DRR courses, training resources and learning opportunities: <https://www.nidm.gov.in/>. The specific August 2026 ITEC DRM course has concluded; it is not advertised as an open application.

COP31 | 9–20 November 2026 | Antalya, Türkiye. Monitor implications for adaptation, climate finance and disaster resilience.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES | Verified open notices

Organisations and firms

SADC — End-of-Project Evaluation, Disaster Risk Management Strengthening in Southern Africa Project. Ref SADC/3/5/2/468. Open to eligible firms. Closing 5 November 2026, midnight Botswana time. See bidding documents for full qualification conditions.

Official SADC tender <https://sadc.int/procurement-opportunities/consultancy-end-project-evaluation-disaster-risk-management-strengthening>

UNDRR — Expression of Interest for Service Providers for Technical Services in Disaster Risk Reduction. Ref EOIUNOG24740. Closing 22 October 2026, 23:59 GMT–4. Organisational eligibility applies; read the original notice.

Official UNGM notice <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/315695>

Individual consultants

SADC — Facilitator for in-country training and development of bankable climate and disaster risk financing proposals. Ref SADC/3/5/4/139. Individual consultant selection; closing 29 October 2026 at 12:00 (as stated by SADC). Check nationality and qualification rules in the notice.

Official SADC consultancy <https://www.sadc.int/procurement-opportunities/request-expression-interest-individual-consultants-selection-2>

THE DIMA QUESTION

What would an African government have to demonstrate in 2030 to prove that its disaster risk governance reduced actual risk, rather than merely produced new declarations, plans and institutions?

ABOUT GRAVITAZZ & THE CONTINENTAL CONSORTIUM

DIMA Connect is produced by Gravitazz Institute, drawing on a pan-African network of practitioners and specialists in disaster risk governance, climate resilience, early warning, anticipatory action, risk finance, recovery, institutional assessments, policy, training and monitoring and evaluation.

Governments, regional institutions, development partners and organisations seeking technical advice, research, assessments, programme design or capacity development can contact info@gravitazzcontinental.com |

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TRACKING THE RISKS. QUESTIONING THE SYSTEMS. CONNECTING THE PEOPLE WHO MANAGE THEM.