



DARA invites you to the presentation of

RRI

RISK REDUCTION INDEX IN WEST AFRICA

CAPE VERDE, GAMBIA, GHANA, GUINEA, NIGER, SENEGAL

ANALYSIS OF THE CAPACITIES AND CONDITIONS
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

WHEN

17th December 2013

09:30 - 10:00: Coffee break

10:00 - 12:00: Presentation

WHERE

Casa Árabe

Calle Alcalá 62, 28014 Madrid Spain

WHAT

DARA is presenting the second report of the Risk Reduction Index (RRI), carried out in West Africa. The Risk Reduction Index aims to help governments, civil society and other actors understand the underlying risks that render communities more vulnerable to natural hazards, so that they can be addressed from a more integrated perspective.

During the event, international and national experts on disaster risk reduction will share their insight on the report and exchange views on the current trends in the sector, including risk as related to conflict settings, urban vs. rural issues and ongoing discussions around the Hyogo Framework Action 2, amongst others.

WHO

Speakers

Belén Paley - RRI Main Researcher, DARA: *Main findings*

Carlos Muñoz - Regional DRR Advisor, Oxfam Great Britain: *DRR in urban settings*

Rafael de Prado - Head of Emergency Department, Humanitarian Aid Office, AECID: *Incorporating DRR into humanitarian planning in the Sahel*

Francisco Rey - Codirector, IECAH: *Conflict and DRR*

Bina Desai - Coordinator Policy and Research, Global Assessment Report, UNISDR: *Current trends in DRR & HFA 2*

Moderator

Ed Schenkenberg - Director, DARA

WHY

In West Africa, underlying risk drivers continue to increase communities' vulnerability to natural hazards, decrease their resilience overall, and potentially diminish important development gains that have been made. The RRI has identified links between underlying risk factors and increased vulnerability, raising awareness around the need for greater risk management initiatives. Furthermore, since risk knows no barriers, the RRI highlights the need to work with regional organisations to address cross-border challenges.

HOW

Six countries in West Africa: Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Niger and Senegal

Four risk drivers:





The focus of the RRI is on measuring local perceptions about underlying risk. These were measured through a questionnaire, divided into four risk drivers, administered in six countries. More than 700 questionnaires were answered in 16 communities, with respondents representing a range of sectors and experience. The findings generated through the data collection and analysis were presented and validated in 16 community level workshops. Finally, six national workshops were conducted to upstream local level knowledge and raise awareness at the national level.

MAIN MESSAGES

National governments and regional and international actors must take action to address the key underlying risk drivers in the region, and work together through greater trans-boundary collaboration and sharing of knowledge and best practices. Reducing underlying risk in West Africa is crucial to protecting the region's environment, ensuring the continued socioeconomic development of its communities, and preparing its cities to meet the challenges of urbanisation.

Crucial areas where more action must be taken:

- Environmental degradation is an important underlying risk factor across West Africa, and more must be done to reduce the pressure on natural resources, while at the same time finding ways for communities to play a more active role in protecting their local environment.
- Areas where there is a clear opportunity and need for regional coordination and collaboration are coastal zone and fisheries management, and the management of drought, epidemics, and pests. For this to occur, regular and substantive exchange of information and knowledge sharing across boundaries needs to be strengthened.
- Households, and by extension communities, have limited capacity to cope when confronted with disasters especially due to poverty and unemployment. Increasing household resilience, primarily through education and training programs and the creation of income-generating activities, is a crucial gap that must be filled. In both rural and urban areas, access to social services must be improved. Further decentralisation of social services should be further pursued, in order to meet the needs of rural communities where they are, and potentially help to slow the rapid pace of urbanisation in the region.
- West Africa's cities are currently faced with significant challenges related to their infrastructure and spatial planning. These contribute to flood risk across the region, an increasing trend in recent years. Special attention must be paid to drainage and waste disposal systems, which need to be updated and expanded, urban planning, which should catch up with demographic trends and pressures, and improved building codes and their legal enforcement.



BIOGRAPHIES

Belén Paley

Belén is Advocacy Manager and Researcher at DARA. The focus of her work has been disaster risk reduction, including the Risk Reduction Index in West Africa and the Evaluation of FAO's role and work in DRR, among other evaluations. She holds a double BA in History and Political Science from Vanderbilt University in the US and an MA in History of International Relations from the London School of Economics. Belén previously worked for the American Institutes for Research in Washington D.C., where she specialised in education policy and community development.

Carlos Muñoz

Based at the regional headquarters office in Dakar, Senegal, Dr. Carlos Muñoz serves as Regional Disaster Risk Reduction adviser for Oxfam Great Britain. During his time with Oxfam, Carlos has established the organisation's Disaster Risk Reduction strategy for County Offices in West Africa. Prior to joining Oxfam, Carlos worked for the Swiss Cooperation Agency (SDC) as an expert in Disaster Prevention and Disaster Response in Central America. He has also worked for and provided support to several United Nations agencies throughout his career - including UNDP, UNEP and OCHA.

Rafael de Prado

Rafael de Prado is the Head of the Emergency Department at AECID's Humanitarian Aid Office. He has several years of field experience in Senegal and Mauritania. He has previously worked for UNHCR and ACF Spain. Rafael has a degree in Law and a Master's degree in Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid from the Universidad Pontificia de Comillas.

Francisco (Paco) Rey Marcos

Francisco is a founding member and codirector of the Institute of Studies on Conflicts and Humanitarian Action (IECAH). He specialises in public health and has a Masters degree in International Relations. Since the 1980s he has worked with the Red Cross and other NGOs in international cooperation and humanitarian action. His interests are in general aspects over the role of humanitarian action in the world and tendencies in how humanitarian action is financed, the quality of humanitarian action and procedures for planning, management and evaluation.

Bina Desai

Dr. Bina Desai is the Coordinator of Policy & Research in the Risk Knowledge Section at the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). She is the project manager and coordinating lead author of the United Nations Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR), the 2013 edition of which was launched by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon in May 2013. Before joining the United Nations, she was Research Coordinator of the UK Government-funded Building Disaster Resilient Communities programme. Between 2003 and 2006, she led the European relations and policy work of the UK office of the Aga Khan Foundation.

Ed Schenkenberg

Since early 2013, Ed Schenkenberg has been the Chief Executive of DARA, an independent action-research organisation. Ed brings DARA 20 years experience in humanitarian policy and practice. In his previous role as ICVA Executive Director (1999-2012), he worked extensively on issues such as humanitarian principles, coordination, and protection in close collaboration with governments, UN agencies, the Red Cross/Crescent Movement, and NGOs. Before ICVA, Ed worked with MSF in Amsterdam and overseas. He holds a master's degree (LL.M.) in International Law from Leiden University, the Netherlands.